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The situation in the Middle East
The question of Palestine**

**Security Council
Fifty-sixth year**

**Letter dated 29 May 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires, a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the final communiqué adopted on 26 May 2001 in Doha, Qatar, by the Extraordinary Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference member States on the grave situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (see annex).*

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 40 and 41, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Adel Ali Al-Khal
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.

* Annex is being circulated in the languages of submission only (Arabic, English and French).



Annex to the letter dated 29 May 2001 from the Chargé
d'affaires, a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

EX-ICEM/8-2001/FC/FINAL

FINAL COMMUNIQUE
ADOPTED BY THE
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE
OIC FOREIGN MINISTERS
ON THE GRAVE SITUATION PREVAILING
IN THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

DOHA - STATE OF QATAR
3 RABIUL AWWAL 1422 H
(26 MAY 2001)

At the kind invitation of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar and Chairman of the Ninth Islamic Summit Conference of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Extraordinary Session of the Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States was held on 3 Rabiul Awwal 1422H (26 May 2001) in Doha, State of Qatar, to consider the grave situation prevailing in Palestine as a consequence of the continuous and spiraling Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people.

The Conference expressed its profound appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani and the Government and people of the sisterly State of Qatar for this generous invitation and for providing the opportunity to conduct a meaningful and deep examination of the serious conditions prevailing in Palestine.

The Conference listened to the important speech kindly delivered by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani and also to the detailed expose of His Excellency President Yasser Arafat. It took note of the report of the Secretary General on the dangerous developments taking place in Palestine.

The Conference elected its Bureau as follows:

-	State of Qatar	Chairman
-	Islamic Republic of Pakistan	Vice-Chairmen
-	Republic of Mali	
-	State of Palestine	
-	Malaysia	Rapporteur

Following the extensive deliberations and discussions that took place between Their Excellencies the Ministers and Heads of Delegations and were inspired by the Declaration of the Ninth Islamic Summit Conference on Al-Aqsa Intifada, the Intifada of the Independence of Palestine, the Extraordinary Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States reached the following results:

- 1- The Conference salutes with great pride the Intifada of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation, and reaffirms its full political and material support and backing for the Palestinian resistance in the face of the Israeli occupation as well as its support for their blessed Intifada and the legitimate Palestinian right to resist occupation. In this respect, it calls on the Member States for the prompt provision of the necessary material assistance to the Palestinian National Authority and to open the way for raising popular donations to support the resistance of the Palestinian people. The Conference pays its respects in commemoration of the martyrs and their immaculate spirit, expresses its best wishes of quick recovery for the wounded victims, and reaffirms its determination to mobilize all possible resources in the various political, moral, material, economic, human, and information fields for the liberation of the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and to enable the Palestinian people to secure its inalienable national rights, including its right in return to its homes and property and the right to self-determination and the establishment of its independent State on its national territories with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.**
- 2- The Conference calls for allocating emergency financial assistance to be extended by the Governments of the Member States to meet the urgent needs arising out of the escalating Israeli aggression and the destruction of the Palestinian infrastructures and productive facilities so as to ensure the continued protection of the land, provide medical and educational services and assist hundred of thousands of unemployed people in a way that supports the blessed Palestinian Intifada and the families of its martyrs as well as the wounded and the detainees, and enable the Palestinians to have the minimum requirements for reconstruction, replanting the territories bull-dozed by the Israeli military machine, and repairing the roads and infrastructures. The Chairmanship of the Conference will, in coordination with the General Secretariat, and with the agreement of the Member States, determine their contributions and remit them directly to the Palestinian Authority or through the Funds for Al-Aqsa and the support of the Intifada at the Islamic Development Bank, taking into consideration the generous contributions already paid by some Member States.**
- 3- The Conference holds Israel fully responsible for its aggression and its oppressive practices that have caused the death of hundreds of martyrs, wounded thousands of Palestinians, destroyed the Palestinian facilities,**

infrastructures, and housing and suffocated the Palestinian national economy. This aggression constitutes a flagrant abuse of the rights of the Palestinian people and human being, a gross violation of all the international covenants, conventions, the international law, and the international humanitarian law, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, as well as a disavowal of the resolutions of international legitimacy and signed agreements, which jeopardizes the security and peace of the whole region.

- 4- The Conference condemns the Israeli occupying forces for shelling the Palestinian cities, villages and camps and its use of F-16 fighters, and U.S. made Apachi helicopter gunships, heavy tanks, missiles from naval ships and the use of depleted uranium bullets and poisonous gases which has caused the death of tens of Palestinians and wounded hundreds of others among the civilian population, destroyed residential areas and civilian and official facilities; and calls on the UN Security Council to promptly intervene in order to put and end to this dangerous and aggressive escalation against the Palestinian people and sanctities in Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif and provide international protection for the Palestinian people.
- 5- The Conference calls on the United State of America to promptly intervene to stop the Israeli aggression and prevent the Israeli government from continuing to use lethal and internationally banned weapons against civilians which has shaken the very foundations of regional security and stability and put the Middle East region on the brink of a destructive war. It also calls on the UN General Assembly to resume its Tenth use of Extraordinary Session to consider the barbaric Israeli practices and its internationally banned weapons against the Palestinian people.
- 6- The Conference strongly condemns the gross and wide-scale violations of human rights, which the Israeli occupation authorities persist in committing, and especially the criminal political assassinations and mass reprisals, which constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity, and a flagrant violation of international law and of the right of Palestinian people to life.
- 7- The Conference holds the Israeli officials responsible in their personal capacity for the consequences of these crimes and requests the United Nations to constitute an International Criminal Tribunal specifically to bring them to trial as war criminals who perpetrated these heinous massacres against the Palestinians and other Arabs. It emphasizes that they should be prosecuted in the same way that similar cases have been.

- 8- The Conference calls on the United Nations to take binding decisions to force Israel to pay reparations for the moral and material losses it provoked in lives and properties, for the psychological and physical disabilities it caused as a result of its aggression against the Palestinian people, for the blockade and closure imposed on the Palestinian territories and the continuing dismemberment to these territories, for the destruction of Palestinian facilities, infrastructures, and housing, for the damage it inflicted on the agricultural lands and crops, and for uprooting trees, polluting the environment, dispersing the population and for other losses.
- 9- The Conference condemns the Israeli expansionist policy, the confiscation of Palestinian lands, and all other settlement activities, which is considered a war crime and a flagrant violation of the UN resolutions and international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and its annexes, and of UN resolution NO. 465, which considers settlements illegal facilities that must be dismantled and the building of settlements null and void and without legal effect. It calls for the implementation of UN resolution No. 1322 of 2000 and resolution No. 10/7 adopted by the Tenth Extraordinary Session of the UN General Assembly. It calls on all States of refrain from providing to Israel any assistance to build settlements and also calls for political and economic sanctions to be imposed on Israel to force it to put an end to settlements.
- 10- The Conference warns of the dangers of the Israeli designs to close down Palestinian institutions in the city of Al-Quds, to desecrate the sanctity of the precincts of the Blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, which constitutes an insult to the holy places and sentiments of the Islamic Ummah, that is bound to set off an unprecedented conflagration in the whole region. In this context, it stresses that every effort should be made to safeguard the identity and Islamic Arab character of Al-Quds and to preserve the Islamic and Christian holy shrines in Palestine.
- 11- The Conference calls on the UN Security Council to assume its responsibilities, as the international body entrusted with the preservation and maintenance of international peace and security, so as to put an immediate end to the Israeli aggression and secure the necessary international protection for the Palestinian people against the grave violation to which they are being subjected, and in particular, urges the USA, not to obstruct the UN Security Council process to reach such a decision.
- 12- The Conference commends the firm support and effective solidarity expressed by the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) towards the struggle of the Palestinian people and other Arab and Islamic peoples for recovering their historic inalienable and legitimate rights. It

underscores the efforts exerted by the UN Security Council members from the NAM Group, China, and other friendly States; and urges them to continue these efforts.

- 13- The Conference emphasizes the need for convening a meeting of the High Signatories of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, in accordance with the statement issued by the meeting of the High Signatories held in Geneva on 15 July 1999, and for Israel's continued gross violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the Occupied Palestinian territories particularly Al-Quds Al-Sharif in order to consider these violations and take the necessary measures to implement the Convention in the occupied Palestinian territories including Al-Quds Al-Sharif and provide protection for the Palestinian people.**
- 14 - The Conference calls on the co-sponsors of the Peace Process, the USA and the Russian Federation, to assume their responsibilities in ensuring the respect of the principles emanating from the Madrid Conference and aiming at achieving the peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy as translated into UN Security Council resolutions No. 242, 338 and 425 and the land-for-peace principle. It also calls on the European Union to assume an effective role in this context.**
- 15 - The Conference reaffirms full Islamic solidarity with Syria and Lebanon facing the continuous Israelis aggressions and threats against them. It calls on all OIC Member States to practically express this solidarity using all means and takes a firm stand by Syria and Lebanon in the face of any Israeli aggression against them.**
- 16 - The Conference also reaffirms Lebanon's legitimate right to defend its territories and liberate the remaining parts under Israeli occupation and support the Lebanese position demanding the maintenance of the number of international forces deployed in Southern Lebanon without reduction or a change in the nature of its action especially in the light of continuous Israeli threats and aggressions and violations of the territories, air space and territorial waters of Lebanon. It charges the Islamic Group at the United Nations in New York to continue its action for mobilizing support to the Lebanese position in this respect and expedite the removal of mines planted by Israel in the Lebanese territories and the release of Lebanese and other Arab detainees.**
- 17 - The conference entrusts the Chairman of the Ninth Islamic Summit Conference with contacting the leaders of the permanent member States of the UN Security Council to express the position of the Islamic Ummah calling for an immediate halt to the Israeli aggression against the**

Palestinian people so as to guarantee and preserve the strategic and economic interest of the Ummah as well as the Security and stability of the Middle East region.

- 18 - The Conference reaffirms its adherence to the just and comprehensive peace option in the Middle East in such a way as to guarantee the Palestinian and Arab rights, and achieve security and stability in the region on the basis of implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338 and 425, the land-for peace principle, and the return of the Palestinian refugees to their homes and property in accordance with the resolution of the UN General Assembly No. 194. It emphasizes that commitment to the peace process requires Israel to implement the agreements and obligations reached, to build upon the results achieved, and to resume the negotiations on all tracks from where they stopped in accordance with the terms of reference, conditions, and foundations of the peace process.**
- 19 - The Conference calls on the international community and the UN security Council to force Israel to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations, particularly UN Security Council Resolution No. 487 of 1981 by acceding to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, implementing the resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) calling for subjecting all Israeli nuclear facilities to the IAEA Comprehensive Guarantee System, and proclaiming by Israel of its rejection of nuclear armament of nuclear weapons and materials to the UN Security Council and the IAEA as necessary steps to create a zone free of weapons of mass destruction particularly nuclear weapons, in the Middle East region. This is an essential requirement for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.**
- 20 - the Conference calls on all international parties concerned with the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region to adopt a definite position towards Israel's repeated rejection of the Arab initiatives and international reports aimed at ending the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people as well as its attempts to renege on its commitment and circumvent the international position calling for a complete end of all settlement activities.**
- 21 - The Conference commissions the Ministerial Committee constituted by the Chairman of the Ninth Islamic Summit Conference to immediately resume its task by calling first for convening of an emergency session of the UN security Council to be devoted to the consideration of the grave situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, providing the necessary international protection for the Palestinian people and implementing the Security Council Resolutions relevant to Palestine and the Arab-Israeli**

conflict. The Committee should also urgently visit the capitals of the five permanent Member States of the UN Security Council, the European Union, and the United Nations to consider the initiation of the necessary modes and mechanisms to address the deteriorating situation and that it should consider itself in permanent session to follow-up-developments.

- 22 - The Conference decides to stop all political contacts with the Israeli government as long as the aggression and blockade against the Palestinian people and its National Authority continue, and as long as Israel persists in refusing to implement the relevant UN resolutions and calls on Member States which have established, and which had started to take steps to establish, relations with Israel within the context of the peace process to break these relations, to close down any missions or offices, sever all economic relations, and end all forms of normalization with Israel until it meticulously and sincerely implements the UN resolutions on Palestine, Al-Quds, Al-Sharif, and the Arab-Israeli Conflict and until the restoration of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.
- 23 - The Conference calls for a commitment to the implementation of the provisions of the Islamic boycott of Israel and for considering the legislation, rules and regulations governing the boycott "The General Principles of the Boycott, the Islamic Law and the by-laws of the Regional Offices and their Regular Meetings" as a part of the national legislations in force. It also calls for the institution of the necessary offices and mechanisms for the implementation of those laws and for coordination between the Islamic Boycott Office and the Arab Boycott Office.
- 24 - The Conference decides that the Chairmanship, the OIC General Secretariat and the State of Palestine should sponsor the formation of popular Palestinian delegations from among Palestinian youth to visit Islamic States with a view to reaffirming support for the Palestinian Intifada and commitment to the provision of material and moral support to it as well as sensitizing world public opinion as to the need for solidarity with the just Palestinian cause.
- 25 - The Conference recommends the deployment of continuous efforts with the international mass media to expose the Israeli violations of the Palestinian human rights, awaken the International conscience, mobilized international solidarity and sympathy for the Palestinian people in its legitimate national struggle, and counter the negative effects of the misleading Israeli campaign by organizing a counter-offensive to clarify the situation to world public opinion and decision-makers. It commissions the Secretary General to coordinate this campaign in collaboration with information experts and public relations in the Member States.



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**Security Council
Fifty-sixth year**

The situation in the Middle East

The question of Palestine

**Letter dated 8 June 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to
the Secretary-General**

Further to our note dated 29 May 2001, I have the honour to transmit the statement of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Member States on the grave situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, held in Doha, Qatar, on 26 May 2001 (see annex)*.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an addendum to document A/55/974-S/2001/543 of the General Assembly, under agenda items 40 and 41, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Adel Ali Al-Khal
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* Annex is being circulated in the languages of submission only (Arabic, English and French).



**Annex to the letter dated 8 June 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires
a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Qatar to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

**Statement of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani,
Emir of the State of Qatar, at the Extraordinary Meeting of the
Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference
Member States on the grave situation prevailing in the Palestinian
Territories, Doha, State of Qatar, 3 Rabiul Awal 1422 H
(26 May 2001)**

Your Excellency brother Yasser Arafat
President of the State of Palestine,

Your Royal Highnesses and Excellencies,

Dear Brothers,

Allow me, please, to welcome you to this extraordinary meeting which is being held under exceedingly critical conditions. I need not emphasize the serious escalation of violence in the region due to the oppressive measures to constant Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people.

The initiative to convene this meeting came both as a response to a call from President Arafat for a commitment on the part of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to perform its responsibilities vis-a-vis the serious events in Palestine and the speedy deterioration of the situation there.

Under these difficult conditions, the issue confronting us is the following:

How should we support the Palestinian people? How should we protect them from aggression? It is alright to condemn and to sympathize but how do we convince the Palestinians that we support them in their plight? How do we make our thoughts and stands conform with them in a concrete rather than a wishful manner? It certainly will not be enough, under the present conditions, to reiterate words of condemnation and disapproval, nor to issue recommendations that cannot be translated into reality.

God bless the people of Lebanon who found their own way of liberating their territory. Would they have achieved this and had they been content with reiterating words and slogans as we have done in the past and still do (at present)? Would the Israeli government, headed by Sharon, have committed its atrocities against the Palestinian people had it not realized in advance that the Islamic, and in particular, the Arab reaction will not exceed condemnation and disapproval and that we do not have the power to implement peace?

What is happening in Palestinian territory at present is, first and foremost, a result of the feeling of oppression, frustration and despair due to Israeli atrocities. Since the initiation of the Intifada, Israeli reaction has always been excessive in its violence and savagery. There is no moral, political nor security justification for responding to stone-throwing by plane, tank and missile bombings and for using advanced weaponry against an unarmed people who possess nothing but their faith in the justice of their cause and belief in their right to a life of freedom and dignity.

The Intifada will continue and the Palestinian people will rely on themselves entirely, knowing perhaps that their brothers in other Islamic countries will supply nothing more than condemnation of Israeli aggression and some financial support.

Our aim is peace. If the Intifada is the force which will impose it, then it is our duty, Muslims and Arabs alike, to adopt a courageous stand that offers it material and moral support. The Intifada has certainly earned our backing, its heroes have made us proud of their courage and caused us to deeply grieve its martyrs. Serious and effective measures should, therefore, be adopted to support our brothers and supply them with needs. We should offer them the means to alleviate their plight and resist an aggression that reflects a serious imbalance of powers. While doing so, we do not only help the Palestinians but we protect our holy sites and rights.

Brother Muslims,

It is our duty to expose to the international community the stark contradiction and double standards practiced by Israel against international legitimacy. This is a country, a member of the United Nations, that flagrantly violates all its commitments and reneges on its pledges.

The international community displays increasing concern with human rights and the development of international law in this and other related fields such as the agreements governing civilian rights and protection under occupation. We hoped, therefore, for a firm stand by the international community regarding the atrocities committed daily by Israel against the unarmed civilians, women and children of the occupied Palestinian territories. What we and the whole world are viewing daily in Palestine, however, drives us to question the credibility of principles and values which we embraced and committed ourselves to as members of the international community.

Hence, despite our appreciation for the international response to the Mitchell Committee Report, which was welcomed by the Palestinian Authority and adopted by the USA to guide its work approach, our experience with Israel demonstrating its indifference to international resolutions and the international community's inability to force it to comply with them, gives us cause for concern that the report might meet with the same fate of international resolutions and agreements it signed.

That is why, I hope that we will come out of this meeting with a unified Islamic strategy by activating the resolutions of the Doha Summit adapted to the current conditions so as to provide all forms of political and material support for the Palestinian people in its legitimate struggle, whilst calling on the United Nations, and particularly the UN Security Council, to provide international protection for this people and force Israel to put an end to all settlement activities in the Palestinian territories and all forms of expansion and confiscation, and to cease its continued violations of Islamic and Christian holy places. It is also my hope that we will work hard to energize the role of the two sponsors of the peace process, the United States of America and the Republic of the Russian Federation, so that they would assume their basic responsibilities in this direction.

The United States of America, with all its resources, has played a central role in sponsoring the peace process since the 1991 Madrid Conference, which helped reinforce confidence in its ability to take the process to a successful conclusion, thus encouraging many Arab states to participate in it. Therefore, it is imperative that the United States of America should honor its obligations with regard to the Arab Israeli conflict, which cannot end without the full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and the recognition of the legitimate, national rights of their Arab people.

I therefore call on the American Administration and on George Bush personally to urgently and promptly intervene to put an end to this worsening situation, which we can no longer stand by and watch, and to compel Israel to end its aggression, return, without preconditions, to commitment to the principles on which the peace process was based, and resume the negotiations at the point at which they had stopped.

Israel cannot remain outside international legitimacy and should not be exempt from the application of UN resolutions and its conventions and the principles of human rights, for if these resolutions, conventions, and principles are applicable, why are they not applicable to Israel?

Arab and Islamic states were besieged in the name of international legitimacy and so we may well ask why was this legitimacy applicable to some Arab and Islamic states, while it is not applicable to Israel?

Where is this international legitimacy, which cannot provide security for a defenseless people as is the case now in the West Bank and Gaza Strip? We are all aware of and we repeatedly point to double standards, but these double standards are applied to the weaker nations.

If these resolutions, conventions, and principles are applicable everywhere and to all crises and conflicts, they should be applicable more than anywhere else to the Arab Israeli conflict and the Palestinian cause, for the Palestinian people, like all other peoples of the world, is entitled to live in liberty and dignity and enjoy security, protection, peace, and prosperity in its homeland and on its territory whilst Israel should today choose whether it wants to live in the region in security and peace or to have this conflict continue for decades and generations to come with all the consequent catastrophes and tragedies for all the countries and peoples of the region.

Brothers,

To face these critical conditions being endured by our brothers in Palestine, I propose that the Ministerial Committee emanating from the Ninth Islamic Summit Conference should resume its task immediately by calling for an extraordinary session of the UN Security Council to be devoted to the examination of the grave situation in the Palestinian territories. The Committee should urgently travel to the capitals of the five permanent member-states of the Security Council, the European Union, and the United Nations in order to discuss the initiation of the necessary modes and mechanisms to address this deteriorating situation. I also believe that it is appropriate that the Committee should consider itself permanently in session to monitor developments and propose future steps.

May Allah have mercy on the souls of those who have chosen Shehada, or martyrdom, and realized their ambition, and may He grant victory to a people who have believed and who have fought and continue to fight to forcefully gain their right to a life of liberty, dignity, and independence.

Wassalamu Alikum War'ahmatullah Wabarakatuh.
